

REMARKS

STATUS OF CLAIMS

In response to the Office Action dated January 9, 2007, claims 21-28 have been added. Claims 1-28 are now pending in this application. No new matter has been added.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goto et al. (US 2004/0021616) in view of Kawaguchi et al. (USPN 6,677,925).

The rejections of claims 1-20 are respectfully traversed.

Kawaguchi et al. (USPN 6,677,925) issued January 13, 2004, while the present application was filed November 4, 2003 (co-pending with Kawaguchi et al.). Therefore, Kawaguchi et al. (USPN 6,677,925) qualifies as prior art only under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Furthermore, Kawaguchi et al. (USPN 6,677,925) is assigned to Sharp Kabushiki Kaisha, as indicated under item 73 (Assignee) on the front of the patent, as is the present application, as evinced by the enclosed copy of the recorded assignment information.

Consequently, in accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 103(c), Kawaguchi et al. (USPN 6,677,925) shall not preclude patentability of the present application.

Nevertheless, Applicant provides the following comments regarding Goto et al. and Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application No. 2000-245198 (hereinafter, JP2000-245198) corresponding to Kawaguchi et al.

Goto et al. relates to a liquid crystal display device having two (main and sub) display panels. JP2000-245198 (corresponding to Kawaguchi et al.) does **NOT** disclose an active matrix substrate used for a liquid crystal display device having plural display panels. This indicates that a person of ordinary skill in the art would have no realistic motivation to combine these documents to meet the terms of the claims.

More specifically, a capacitance discloses in JP2000-245198 (or Kawaguchi) is formed at each of the intersections between all data signal lines SL_1 - SL_n , and a detection-use bus line 12. Neither of these references disclose which one of video signal lines DL of the display device include plural display panels in Goto and which one of the lines form a first capacitance that is an important feature of the present application. Applicant submits that a person of ordinary skill in the art could not have easily determined the position of the first capacitance recited in independent claim 1. An important feature of independent claim I of the present application, is *"the first capacitance formed by arranging (i) a first bus line not connected to first bus lines on another active matrix substrate and (ii) a line other than the second bus lines to cross each other"*. This important feature does **not result** even if an artisan were somehow to combine the disclosures of Goto et al. and Kawaguchi et al. Similarly, the first capacitance, which is an important feature of each of independent claims 6, 7, and 12, also does not **result** even if an artisan were somehow to combine the disclosures of Goto et al. and Kawaguchi et al.

As described above, neither Goto nor JP2000-245198 (corresponding to Kawaguchi) discloses anything that would realistically impel a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine these references to meet the terms of the claims. Consequently, independent claims 1, 6, 7 and 12 are patentable over Goto and JP2000-245198, considered alone or in combination, as are dependent claims 2-5, 8-11 and 13-20. Therefore, the allowance of claims 1-20 is respectfully solicited.

NEW CLAIMS

New dependent claims 21-28 have been added. Claims 21-24 depend from independent claims 1, 6, 7 and 12, respectively, and delineate that the active matrix substrate has a display area and the first capacitance is formed outside the display area. Claims 25-28 depend from independent claims 1, 6, 7 and 12, respectively also, and delineate that the line other than the second bus lines is a signal line for a dummy pixel.

These claims are based on the description at page 21, line 17 to page 22, line 2 and the last line of page 23 to page 24, line 19, and on Figs. 2-8 and 24 of the present application.

The subject matter recited in claims 21-28 is not disclosed or suggested in Goto et al. or Kawaguchi et al. Consequently, the allowance of claims 21-28 is respectfully solicited also.

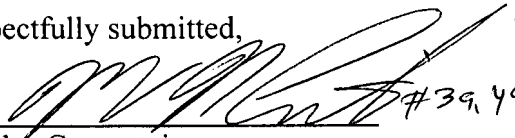
CONCLUSION

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Edward J. Wise (Reg. No. 34,523) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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